

Applicants: Palermo, Cobler, and Butler

USSN: 08/841,502

Filed: April 23, 1997

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a
1
Cont.

a second unit interface circuit for matching the second unit transducer system to the second unit processing circuit, and

a second unit switch network for coupling one of the at least three orthogonal transducers to the second unit interface circuit.

2. (Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein the [second] first unit transducer system comprises a single transducer

a
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4
5

4.5. (Amended) The system of claim [4] 1 wherein each of the at least three orthogonal [plurality of] transducers of the second unit transducer system comprises a [an array of] rod antenna[s].

REMARKS

Claims

Applicants hereby cancel claims 4, 6, and 7, without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these canceled claims in this or a related application.

Applicants also hereby amend claims 1, 2, and 5. Support for these claim changes can be found in the originally-filed application. See, for example, FIGS. 7A and 7B and the associated description in the originally-filed application for support for these claim changes.

Amended claims 1, 2, and 5, and originally-filed claim 3, are now pending in this application. Amended claim 1 is the only pending independent claim, and it is directed generally to a magnetic induction time-multiplexed two-way short-range wireless communications system such as the one shown, and described with reference to, FIGS. 7A and 7B of the originally-filed application.

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Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1-7 are rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 5,771,438 to Palermo et al. (hereinafter "Palermo").

Applicants submit that this rejection of originally-filed claims 1-7 does not apply to the now-pending claims (i.e., claims 1-3 and 5), as these now-pending claims are patentably distinct from claim 1 of Palermo.

Applicants submit that a terminal disclaimer is not necessary, but applicants will reconsider the situation after the pending claims are found to be otherwise patentable.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a)

Claims 1-3 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 4,334,315 to Ono et al. (hereinafter "Ono").

Claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) over Ono in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,615,229 to Sharma et al. (hereinafter "Sharma").

Applicants submit that these rejections of originally-filed claims 1-7 do not apply to the now-pending claims, because Ono and Sharma, taken alone or combined, do not teach or suggest the system recited in amended claim 1. There is no teaching or suggestion in these references about a magnetic induction system comprising the recited transducer systems, processing circuits, interface circuits, and switch network.

Information Disclosure Statements (IDSs)

Prior to December 23, 1998, applicants submitted seven IDSs to the Patent Office. Only five of these seven IDSs have been acknowledged by the Patent Office. Applicants request acknowledgment of the other two IDSs as soon as possible.

More specifically, applicants request return of initialed copies of the PTO-1449 forms for the IDSs submitted to the Patent Office on December 11, 1998, and on December 22, 1997. Based on the returned and stamped postcards for those two IDSs, the Patent Office received the two IDSs on December 14, 1998, and on December 29, 1997, respectively. Copies of these two IDSs, including copies of the returned/stamped postcards but not the references (except for BA, Int'l Publication No. 96/10878, and CA, Int'l Search Report for PCT/US98/07768), are enclosed with this Amendment and Response. Again, applicants request return of initialed copies of the PTO-1449 forms for these IDSs, as acknowledgment that each of the listed references has been received and reviewed by the Patent Office.



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Filing Receipt

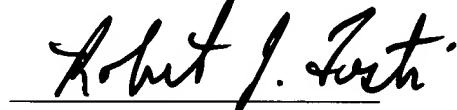
Applicants note an inaccuracy in the filing receipt, and applicants hereby request correction of the inaccuracy. The filing receipt indicates that the present application is a CIP of USSN 08/444,017 and that USSN 08/444,017 is a CIP of USSN 08/696,812, but USSN 08/444,017 was filed before USSN 08/696,812 and thus USSN 08/444,017 cannot be, and is not, a CIP of USSN 08/696,812. The filing receipt should instead indicate either that (1) the present application is a CIP of USSN 08/444,017 and a CIP of USSN 08/696,812, or that (2) the present application is a CIP of USSN 08/696,812 which is a CIP of USSN 08/444,017.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully request reconsideration, withdrawal of all of the rejections, and allowance of all pending claims (i.e., claims 1-3 and 5) in due course.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 7, 1999



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